

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02491 191735Z

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ACTION SS-30

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2491

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UK, SU, UN

SUBJECT: CYPRUS COUP

1. PRESSURE IS BUILDING UP FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE
WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS, DEMANDING GREEK WITHDRAWAL OF
MILITARY OFFICERS FROM THE CYPRIOT NATIONAL GUARD.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS TODAY, ACTING SOV PERMREP SAFRONCHUK
SOUGHT USG APPROVAL OF MOVE TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION TO THIS
EFFECT IN ADVANCE OF MAKARIOS APPEARANCE IN SECURITY
COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON. I TOLD HIM SUCH A MOVE WOULD
NOT BE HELPFUL AND WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN PARTIES OUTSIDE SECURITY COUNCIL CHAMBER. HE
CONTINUED TO INSIST, AND I BROKE OFF DISCUSSION.

3. LATER, UK'S REP RICHARD URGED WE CONSIDER VOTING YES
FOR SAME KIND OF RESOLUTION, ARGUING A QUICK VOTE WOULD
PUT PRESSURE ON GREEK GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO WITHDRAW
OFFICERS FROM NATIONAL GUARD. I ARGUED THAT SUCH RESOLUTION
COULD HAVE OPPOSITE EFFECT, MAKING IT LESS LIKELY GREEK
MILITARY REGIME WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO UK/US EFFORTS
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02491 191735Z

TO REACH FRIENDLY AGREEMENT OUTSIDE SECURITY COUNCIL SETTING.

WE MADE POINT THAT ADOPTION SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WITHOUT AMERICAN SUPPORT WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY GREEK GOVERNMENT IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS, MAKING IT LIKELY IT WOULD HARDEN POSITION.

4. RICHARD, WHILE SAYING HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS NONETHELESS WARNED USG WOULD BE COMPLETELY ISOLATED IF IT OPPOSED SUCH A RESOLUTION FOR GREEK WITHDRAWAL. AT SAME TIME, HE SAID IT WOULD BE BAD IF US AND UK SPLIT OPENLY ON CYPRUS ISSUE. I AGREED AND SAID IT WAS VITAL THAT WE MOVE WITHOUT UNDUE HASTE TO GIVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN LONDON-ATHENS-ANKARA. RICHARD WOUND UP BY SAYING HE EXPECTED WE COULD GAIN 24-HOUR DELAY IN SECURITY COUNCIL BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT WE COULD HOLD OFF 48 HOURS. HE BELIEVED 24 HOURS, I.E. SATURDAY, DELAY WAS BEST WE COULD GET UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS TIME FRAME IN LINE WITH FRENCH VIEWS AS WELL. COMMENT: UNLESS MAKARIOS' APPEAL FLOPS, I SUSPECT RICHARD IS RIGHT IN HIS ESTIMATE ABOUT AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE PRIOR TO SOME KIND OF SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION.

5. ONE OF RICHARD'S AIDES (THOMAS) ARGUED REPEATEDLY THAT LONDON BELIEF, REFLECTED IN INSTRUCTIONS, WAS THAT STERN ANTI-GREEK MOVE BY ACTION BY SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE DECISIVE IN FORCING THE GREEKS TO BACK DOWN. RICHARD FOR HIS PART EXPRESSED VIEW SUCH MOVE WOULD BE HELPFUL RATHER THAN DECISIVE.
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